



KENTUCKY'S NEW PUBLIC SCHOOL TESTS

Answers to Questions from Parents

Why did Kentucky change the tests?

- Senate Bill 1, passed in 2009, required new standards for core subjects. Standards are the basis for content that is taught in subjects like reading and mathematics.
- Kentucky and other states developed common standards for reading and math, so there would be consistency nationwide.
- Kentucky's focus is college and career readiness for all students.
- The new standards will help teachers prepare students for a changing world and connect education with the economy and employment.
- They will help principals with leadership, planning and making decisions that are best for students.

How did the state tests change?

- The new Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress (K-PREP) tests are connected to the new, tougher standards.
- K-PREP replaces the Kentucky Core Content Tests, which were given under the old CATS system.
- The tests are more challenging and are directly tied to college/career readiness.

What does this mean for my child's test scores?

- Students will experience more rigorous curriculum, instruction and tests.
- The scores students receive on state tests and their performance classifications (novice, apprentice, proficient, distinguished) are likely to look lower than in the past.
- It's not possible to compare the new scores with old scores, because the new scores are from new tests.

What if I have more questions?

- Talk to your child's teacher and principal if you're concerned about test scores.
- Ask what is being done to help children be successful, and ask what else is available to show whether your child is progressing.
- Make sure that your child goes to school every day and completes assignments.
- Use your smartphone to stay up-to-date with your child's education. Access the Infinite Campus Parent Portal app to verify attendance, check on grades, review your child's agenda and more.